

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

17. (Canceled)

18. (Amended) [A staple as defined in claim 17] A compression staple for fastening a first bone segment to a second bone segment, said staple comprised of a resilient material and having a generally U-shaped configuration, and comprising:

a) first and second spaced-apart longitudinally extending legs with sharp free ends and proximal ends;

b) a bridge portion interconnecting the proximal ends of said legs; and

wherein said legs have a convergent orientation, one to the other, and said legs are adapted to be resiliently held in a parallel orientation wherein said legs are urged toward their initial convergent orientation with a predetermined force, and wherein said legs are wider than said bridge portion.

19. (Original) A staple as defined in claim 18 wherein said bridge portion lies to one side of said legs and the other sides of said legs have opposing generally flat surfaces.

20.-28. (Canceled)